

Visitability standards are feasible for all new Single-family homes and duplexes

Disability organizations are advocating for a very basic level of access requirements for single family dwellings (and duplexes) developed with public or private funding

Late Backup

Homes built with basic access have enormous appeal for people with and without disabilities. They welcome friends and family who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches or other mobility aids. Basic access allows people who experience a temporary disability or decreased mobility due to aging to stay in their own home rather than face moving or making major renovations. Basic access provides greater opportunities for builders, architects and realtors to serve an ever growing market.

Basic access can be achieved simply and inexpensively by incorporating four universal design features into all new construction. The four features are:

- One no step entrance (may be in the front, side, back or garage entrance)
- Doorways throughout the home at least 32 ins wide and hallways at least 36 ins wide
- Reinforced walls near the toilet and bathtub so that grab bars may be added, if needed, at a later day
- Light switches and electrical controls no higher than 48 ins and electrical plugs no lower than 15 ins above the floor

Such basic access does not significantly increase housing construction costs in the vast majority of cases. People with disabilities and housing advocates should promote requirements for new housing construction to incorporate these basic access/Visitability features.